

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING MAX P. WOLF-JOHNSON AND HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Max P. Wolf-Johnson, my senior legislative assistant who is transitioning from my office to pursue an advanced degree. Max joined my office in 2018 and has blossomed into an extraordinary policy expert and leader.

Max has been instrumental in my efforts to change the landscape of American higher education and provide more support to HBCUs. Further, he has helped to advance labor-related legislation that ensures critical provisions for America's workers and supports Job Corps in the next WIOA reauthorization. His actions have led to countless wins in education and labor policy, and he has gained a wealth of knowledge in both respective areas.

Additionally, Max has been willing to take on whatever assignment or job placed before him. His ability to take on new positions and excel is a testament to his work ethic and versatility. Though a proud native of the state of California, Max has treated Miami as his second home through his tireless work. A son of educators and a graduate of public K-12 schools, he understands the importance of the public school system.

After graduating high school, Max earned an associate degree at the College of Marin and a bachelor's degree at the University of California Berkeley, both in political science and government.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Max Wolf-Johnson for his extraordinary accomplishments, commitment to public service, and trailblazing leadership.

### AWARDING CORPORAL BOB KERR A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Corporal Bob Kerr with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Marine Corps exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Corporal Kerr is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Corporal Kerr served as a Squad Leader for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He was a very skilled and qualified Rifle Ex-

pert and had obtained the highest score in the Depot. Due to his raw talent and impressive rifle skills, Corporal Kerr was promoted to Lance Corporal in less than a month. With his eventual promotion to Corporal, Corporal Kerr was a great resource for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Corporal Kerr also served overseas in Vietnam. His specific service in Dong Ha, Hue City, Chulai, Phu Bai, and Quangtri exemplifies his passion and dedication to supporting the Nation he loves. As Squad Leader, Corporal Kerr oversaw four squads per platoon and also served as an Ammunition Technician. Corporal Kerr's long list of medals, awards, and honors include one representing the ultimate sacrifice of service. While in Vietnam, Corporal Kerr earned a Purple Heart.

Today, Corporal Kerr serves the Sulfur Springs Community and those around him. He serves as a Judge Advocate with the Hopkins County Marine Corps League and rides in motorcycle events that honor fellow veterans. As a combat veteran from the Vietnam era, he attends various patriotic assemblies in both Franklin and Hopkins Counties.

I am beyond honored to have Corporal Kerr in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

### HONORING RICH MAROVICH ON HIS 21 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich Marovich for his 21 years of service with the Solano County Water Agency. Through his work as streamkeeper of Putah Creek, Mr. Marovich has shown a ceaseless dedication and passion for protecting and preserving our community's natural resources.

Mr. Marovich is originally from Palo Alto, California, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Plant Science at the University of California, Davis. After college, he worked at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, where he administered the department's first Endangered Species Program.

After years of drought, the Putah Creek Accord restored the natural flow of the creek; with this restoration, the need for a streamkeeper emerged and Mr. Marovich was a natural choice for the role. Putah Creek's 70-mile-long stream extends from the Cobb Mountains to the Yolo Bypass making it a major fishing and wildlife resource. To maintain the creek and protect its resources, Mr. Marovich was ever diligent as streamkeeper in improving water quality and conserving creek resources. Through his position, he also provided educational resources to the community regarding the creek's importance and collaborated with landowners along the creek on cleanup efforts.

In addition to his work preserving Putah Creek, Mr. Marovich created several environmental projects including the development of plant nurseries, food cultivation efforts, and critical fundraising campaigns for assessment programs related to the creek's condition.

The annual Winters Salmon Festival and the return of Chinook salmon to Putah Creek is a testament to the tireless efforts and unyielding zeal of Mr. Marovich throughout his career. While his service as Putah Creek's streamkeeper will surely be missed, Mr. Marovich's 21 years of service to the conservation of California's water resources has undoubtedly left a legacy that will last for many years to come. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for Mr. Marovich's dedicated service to the preservation of Putah Creek and wish him and his family my best as he enters retirement.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF KAREN MITCHOFF

#### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman SWALWELL, to recognize the service of Karen Mitchoff as she retires from her role on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Karen has dedicated her career to public service and the people of Contra Costa County. In 1981, she began her career in public service as an executive assistant in the office of former Sheriff Richard Rainey. Karen went on to serve as chief of staff to then-County Supervisor Wright McPeak and served as my chief of staff during my time with the board, as well, Karen then stepped into the role of fiscal and administrative analyst for Contra Costa County's Human Resources Department from 1998-2010.

Karen also has an extensive history serving as an elected official for the county. In 1988, she was appointed to the Pleasant Hill Resident's Advisory Committee on Redevelopment. Karen went on to join the Pleasant Hill Planning Commission, serving in this position from 1992-1996. In 2003, Karen was appointed to the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Parks District Board of Supervisors, where she served as chair both in 2005 and 2006. In 2008, Karen was elected to the Pleasant Hill Board of Supervisors, and in 2010 was elected as mayor of Pleasant Hill. Finally in 2011, Karen was elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors overseeing District IV, where she has worked tirelessly to serve Contra Costans for the past 11 years.

Throughout her tenure on the Board, Karen has done substantial work to promote strength and resiliency within our community. She has helped protect and conserve the integrity of the Delta as an appointee to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Delta Protection Commission, and helped protect the air quality throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, as an appointee to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Karen has done incredible work to support our county's transportation infrastructure, playing a key role as a member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. She has also helped enhance economic activity and development throughout the county, working to improve regional resiliency plans and housing needs as an executive committee member of the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Please join me and Congressman SWALWELL in congratulating Karen on her well-earned retirement after more than four decades of service to Contra Costa County.

#### HONORING VONCAROL KINCHENS

#### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians to recognize VonCarol Kinchens for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, the date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, VonCarol Kinchens' commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring VonCarol Kinchens for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

#### AWARDING MAJOR MICHAEL HOGGE A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Major Michael Hogge with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Air Force exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Major Hogge is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Major Hogge served as a Captain Chief of Logistics for the Air Force where he contributed his expertise and knowledge as a maintenance manager for over ten years. With a brilliant mind in logistics, he contributed his skill set in fixed, tactical, and airborne systems.

Major Hogge has undergone extreme training in electronics, including the formal Air Force electronics systems training, accompanied by many years of experience as an

electrician technician. Throughout his military deployment, Major Hogge was known as an effective manager which he applied to everyday life.

Major Hogge's life in service did not end with his retirement from the military. He continues to support various veteran community events in Hunt County and donates his time to local military fundraisers such as 1000 Miles Till Home.

As an avid leader in his community, Major Hogge is a true patriot to those around him. Whether it's using his repair skills through his church or building homes for the impoverished in Mexico, Major Hogge is defined by humbly dedicating his life to service.

I am beyond honored to have Major Hogge in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

#### HONORING DR. MICHAEL KOSZTARAB

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Kosztarab of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on September 6, 2022. Dr. Kosztarab was a longtime entomology professor at Virginia Tech who led an exciting and heroic life in his journey from his native eastern Europe to Southwest Virginia.

Dr. Kosztarab was born in 1927 in Bucharest, Romania, to Michael Kosztarab and Berta Albert of Transylvania Hungarian descent. He spent much of his early childhood under the care of his widowed maternal grandmother in eastern Transylvania before returning to his parents in Bucharest at the age of six. They later moved to Budapest, Hungary. As a teenager during World War II, he defied the Nazis by aiding Jews in the city's ghetto, and while staying in a building with 36 Jews was arrested when the Nazis raided it. He was arrested and held in custody until Soviet forces arrived in Budapest.

After the war, Dr. Kosztarab worked for a floriculturist and then the Ministry of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Protection eradicating pests. He enrolled in university and, based on his work in the ministry, decided to pursue entomology. He became an assistant professor, but Communist rule meant his position was accompanied by indoctrination and attempts to turn him into an informant.

When the Hungarian Revolution broke out in 1956 and was brutally put down by the Soviets, Dr. Kosztarab and his wife Matilda knew they had to flee the country, but also knew they could not yet take their infant daughter Eva with them. The couple evaded border guards and crossed an icy river into Austria. Dr. Kosztarab then arranged for Eva to join them. He traveled on a train that briefly crossed into Hungary for nine days. On the ninth day, as guards were looking the other way, Eva was tossed in a bundle to Dr. Kosztarab through a window. The family made its way to the United States the following year.

After earning a PhD at the Ohio State University, Dr. Kosztarab became a professor of entomology at Virginia Tech in 1962. His career was characterized by prolific research,

writing, and teaching. He discovered new insect species, authored or co-authored six books and 170 research publications, and received the W.E. Wine Award for Excellence of Teaching in 1968. Dr. Kosztarab served as a Founding Director of the Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History and as Founding President of the Virginia Natural History Society. The Commonwealth of Virginia named the Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly as the State Insect thanks to a campaign he led with the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs.

Among the accolades Dr. Kosztarab earned over the course of his career are the Association of Systematics Collections' Annual Recognition Award in 1994, the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation in 1998, the L.O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award of the Eastern Branch, Entomological Society of America in 2001, and fellowship in the Royal Entomological Society of London in 1989. He retired from Virginia Tech in 1992.

Dr. Kosztarab's wife Matilda passed away in 2013. He is survived by his daughter Eva Kosztarab, son-in-law Kenneth Kastner, grandsons Gregory and Matthew Kastner, granddaughter-in-law Katharine Hagen, and great granddaughters Lia and Abigail Kastner. I offer them my condolences on their loss. Dr. Kosztarab stood up to the two great totalitarian systems of the 20th century, Nazism and Communism, and in the United States led a distinguished career. It was a life that showed the promise of America and the character of Dr. Kosztarab.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PHIL MCCLURE

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Phil McClure, of Warren, Texas, who passed away on Monday, October 31, 2022, at the age of 70.

Phil was born in Beaumont, Texas, on December 27, 1951, to Thomas Lindburg and Tressie Mae Drodgy McClure. He graduated from Kirby High School in Woodville, Texas, and was a member of the 1969 District Champion football team. As a young man, Phil was very active in Future Farmers of America and attained Eagle Scout rank, the highest achievement the Boy Scouts of America offer.

Phil owned and operated McClure Furniture Store in Woodville for many years, working as a licensed real estate broker on the side. My wife, Roxanne, and I purchased our first home from him when we moved to Woodville after I separated from the United States Air Force.

He loved being involved in his community and devoted countless hours serving in the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department, the Woodville Lion's Club, and the First Baptist Church of Warren. Phil graciously hosted my congressional staff at his beautiful Cypress Creek Ranch, sharing his passion for wildlife management, the great outdoors, and hunting with each of them.

Madam Speaker, it is a special privilege to recognize my friend, Phil McClure. My most sincere prayers remain with his friends and loved ones during this difficult time.